April 24 - April 30, 2025 NEWS YOU CAN USE, NEWS YOU CAN TRUST 75¢

THE EAGLE

A PUBLICATION OF ASSOCIATED NEWSPAPERS OF MICHIGAN

THE BELLEVILLE ENTERPRISE • THE CANTON EAGLE • THE INKSTER LEDGER STAR • THE NORTHVILLE EAGLE
THE PLYMOUTH EAGLE • THE ROMULUS ROMAN • THE WAYNE EAGLE • THE WESTLAND EAGLE

No. 17 www.associatednewspapers.net

Community Calendar

47th Annual Clean Sweep in Romulus set April 26

Volunteers will meet at the Romulus Athletic Center, 35765 Northline Road at 9 a.m. April 26 for the annual cleaning of the city. Supplies and assignments will be assigned. Following the clean-up, volunteers will meet at Blue Sky Ice Cream and Hamburgers for refreshments and raffles.

Register at kbasinger@romulusgov.com or call (734) 955-4535

Ghost Walk Saturday

Hear the tales of early Plymouth from the characters themselves on April 26 during the Plymouth Historical Museum Ghost Walk.
The walks begin at 4 p.m. and leave every 15 minutes visiting locations up and down Main Street in Plymouth and lasting up to 90 minutes. Participants should meet at the Plymouth Historical Museum. Tickets are $20 in advance and $25 per person the day of the Ghost Walk (if the walk is not sold out ahead of time). Groups of eight or more should contact the Plymouth Historical Museum for a group rate of $15 per ticket. The Ghosts of Plymouth Walk is sponsored by ATS Advisors.

Plymouth Old Village Yard and Trunk sale set

The annual Old Village Association Yard and Trunk Sale is planned for 8 a.m. until 3 p.m. Saturday, April 26.

Refreshments will be available at various bars, cafes and restaurants in the area.

More than 25 vendors offering household items, toys, clothing, books, tools, used electronics and other items will participate in the sale.

For more information visit oldvillageplymouth.com.

Village Potters Guild Annual Spring Market May 2 - 4

The weekend before Mothers' Day, the village Potters Guild Spring Market will open offering a variety of hand-made ceramics. The sale will take place in Old Village at 326 North Main St, just north of the railroad tricks, behind Sidecar Slider Bar.

The sale will be open from 10 a.m. until 7 p.m. Friday and Saturday, May 2 and 3, and from 10 a.m. until 4 p.m. on Sunday, May 4.

For more information, visit villagepottersguild.org.

Parade registration under way

Registration for the Northville Memorial Day Parade is under way. The parade is an observance to honor military personnel who died while serving in the U.S. Armed Forces.

The parade will begin at 10 a.m. May 26. Following the parade, there will be a ceremony at Rural Hill Cemetery.

Business entry fee is $100 and political entry fee is $150. Non-profit veterans' organizations can enter at no fee.

Sponsorships are also available and being sought. To register or sponsor the event, contact maddy@northvill.org or call (248) 349-7640.

THE BELLEVILLE ENTERPRISE Vol. 140, No. 17
THE CANTON EAGLE Vol. 78, No. 17
THE INKSTER LEDGER STAR Vol. 78, No. 17
THE NORTHVILLE EAGLE Vol. 25, No. 17
THE PLYMOUTH EAGLE Vol. 25, No. 17
THE ROMULUS ROMAN Vol. 140, No. 17
THE WAYNE EAGLE Vol. 78, No.17
THE WESTLAND EAGLE Vol. 78, No. 17

New senior living community proposed in Canton

Plans for a senior living community for those 55 and older need several more approvals before construction begins in Canton Township. Approved by members of the township planning commission during the April 7 meeting, the 180-unit independent living complex would include a pool and pickleball courts for residents, along with a dog park.

Developers proposed the new complex for 17-acres of property at the southwest corner of Ford and Gorman roads, between Canton Center and Beck roads. Monarch Grove had previously proposed a 225-united senior community at the site that was never constructed. This proposal, by Avenue Development, includes 140 independent living units in a three-story building with 40 attached cottages. The units would be one or two-bedroom and rents would start at about $1,700 a month.

Developers said no assisted living or memory care would be offered the complex called Viva Bene. Avenue Development representatives told planning commissioners Viva Bene would be "a forward-thinking concept focused on wellness, community and affordability." "We are pioneering and redefining what it means to live in senior living," said Matt Kwapis, 's senior vice president of development with Avenue Development. "We've realized that there really isn't a senior living option focused on proactively keeping you healthy and proactively keeping you as a productive aging member of your community."

Developers presented a concept plan drawing to Canton planning commissioners last week. Photo courtesy of Canton Township.

Kwapis said starting rents would be affordable to nearly 70 percent of senior or 55 and older residents with 5 miles of the planned development.

Benefits to the township from the proposal include the paving of Gorman Road from Ford Road to the site entrance; the installation of both northbound and southbound right-turn signals at Ford and Canton Center to improve traffic flow; a new right-in/right-out driveway on Gorman to ease site traffic and a sidewalk installed along the south side of Ford Road from Gorman to Kroger to enhance pedestrian access.

Commissioners expressed concern regarding the timing of construction at the site which could interfere with the MDOT boulevard project on Ford Road. Developers said the Viva Bene complex would be complete in 2027 and the state project on Ford Road not set to begin until 2028.

After discussion and comments from neighboring residents who were not in favor of the project, commission members approved the preliminary Planned Development District (PDD) which will now go to members of the township board of trustees for consideration.

A different time

Plymouth Historical Museum offers tours of Wilcox House

A bit of romance and a hint of scandal will be included along with 124 years of history during the upcoming tour of a landmark home in Plymouth.

The Queen Ann style showplace facing Kellogg Park in Plymouth was built in 1901 by William F. Markham, president of the King Air Rifle Company. His company was the first of many small manufacturers producing toy guns which made turn-of-the-century Plymouth the "Air Rifle Capital of the World".

Mr. Markham built the 17-room residence, not for his wife, Carrie, and two children, but for a his 19-year-old mistress, Blanche Shortman, a secretary he had hired shortly after her graduation from high school.

Mr. Markham spared no expense at the home. Originally, in the side yard, a continuously flowing fountain spilled over into a large reflection pool. A pergola, deer a gazebo and statuary were focal points on the extensively landscaped grounds. The grounds also proudly displayed exotic plants, unusual trees and rare shrubs that Mr. Markham imported from around the world, including Amabilis Peonies, and Ginkgo, Black Magnolia and Copper Beech trees.
Mr. Markham lived in the home quite openly with his mistress for nine years, as his wife would not agree to a divorce, due, she claimed, to her strong Christian beliefs. He built the huge house facing the town square in clear sight of his former family home and following his wife's death, he married his mistress. Townspeople shunned and insulted the couple, according to historical reports which claim that local mothers would instruct their children to turn their backs to "that hussy" when they encountered her on the streets. She became the target of rocks thrown by local children and mistreatment. The shutters on the second floor of the front porch were installed to provide privacy because passersby would point their fingers and hiss when they saw her relaxing in her porch swing.

The Plymouth Historical Museum will host tours of historic Wilcox House, originally the Markham House, next month.

The cruel treatment of his wife by his former neighbors, and reported diminishing business profits, prompted Mr. Markham to sell the house in 1911 and move to California where he purchased land which later became Hollywood. Upon his death in the late 1920s, Mr. Markham was estimated to be worth about $25 million in today's valuation.

George and Harriet Wilcox bought the home from Mr. Markham in 1911. According to historical reports, on the first day in his new home, George Wilcox took a hammer to the wrought iron "M" (for Markham) in the grill work over the front gate, removed it, and reinstalled it as a "W" (for Wilcox) where it identified many subsequent years of ownership by the Wilcox family. George and Harriet raised three children in the house, Julia, Katherine and Johnston (Jack). The family owned the home for nearly 90 years. The "W" remains in the front gate today.

During World War II, the home was leased to the federal government as a residence for war workers. The interior was converted into apartments and most of the special millwork and extensive landscaping was removed. When Jack Wilcox returned from Navy duty after the war, he bought back the lease from the government and continued to operate the apartments. He did most of the extensive maintenance work himself and was able to acquire nearby real estate with the eye to eventual consolidation and development of the downtown location.

See Tour, page 2

Westland police investigating apparent murder suicide

An apparent murder suicide last week in Westland remains under police investigation.

Joseph King, 52, and Melissa Hattar, 46, both of Westland, were found dead by police officers responding to a 911 call last week. According to police reports, the 911 call was received at 7:20 p.m. April 15. During the call, a man told the dispatcher he had just shot his girlfriend and that he was going to shoot himself. While on the call, the dispatcher heard what sounded like a gunshot, police said.

The call went silent following the sound.

Westland police officers were immediately dispatched to the home located on the 1400 block of Surrey Heights just west of Palmer and John Hix roads in the city. Believing there to be an emergency situation, officers forced entry into the residence. Upon entering the home, officers located two subjects who appeared to have suffered fatal gunshot wounds. Both King and Hattar resided at the Surrey Heights address, police said.

The Westland Fire Department responded immediately after the scene was secure, but responders were unable to render physical aid as both subjects were deceased upon their arrival, police said.

Canton Township Fire Department names new inspector

Canton Township Firefighter Thomas Agocs has been promoted to Fire Inspector.

Agocs began his career as a firefighter/medic in 2007 and he has steadily advanced in his field, taking on various roles and responsibilities, according to a prepared statement. Since 2013, he has held the position of Union Board Secretary, working to represent his colleagues and promote their interests within the department. In 2020, he became an instructor coordinator, contributing to the training and development of the Suppression Division.

He became a CPR instruction and joined the department peer support team in 2021. He has been a member of the bike team since 2022, providing specialized support during community events. In addition to the special units, he has earned his Fire Officer I and II certifications.

In his new position as a fire inspector, he will be tasked with overseeing a wide range of responsibilities aimed at enhancing fire safety and ensuring compliance with fire prevention laws and ordinances. A significant aspect of his duties will involve conducting detailed inspections of commercial and industrial facilities, to ensure that they adhere to established fire safety standards, according to the department. As a fire inspector, he will be responsible for installing residential smoke alarms and conducting fire safety home inspections, all with the goal of improving fire prevention efforts. His work will not only focus on identifying potential hazards but also on promoting best practices for fire prevention, officials said.

In addition to his inspection duties, he will play a critical part in assisting with fire investigations. This aspect of his position will be essential in identifying the origin and cause of fires, helping to prevent future incidents. Through these efforts, he will contribute to minimizing fire hazards and enhancing the safety of the community, officials said in a prepared statement.

Tour

From page 1.

In 1985, after consulting several different developers, Wilcox chose a group to build a condominium project. That venture failed to acquire financing and was finally settled by litigation. Mr. Wilcox re-acquired clear ownership of the landmark home again in 1989. Wilcox then entered into another agreement with a separate local builder to develop the condominium project. The exterior of the house was redone and a new roof was installed, new redwood siding was applied (6 linear miles at 40 cents a foot), new front pillars were handmade and attached, Thermopane windows were installed, and the original 10-foot stained-glass window was reinstalled along with many new pieces of wood trim copied from the originals.

Before his death in 2000, Mr. Wilcox had a vision that his estate should be invested in the Plymouth community. He established the Wilcox Charitable Trust in 1980, later becoming The Wilcox Foundation, which currently funds multiple civic projects and provides seed money for charities in the community.

The Plymouth Historic Museum will host a guided tour of the historic Wilcox House June 1. The tour will be guided by Frank Cozza, who will portray William "Phil" Markham. Samantha Joseph will portray Blanche Shortman during the tours set for 1, 2, 3 and 4 p.m. Tickets are priced at $20 and sold for the individual time slots. The tours last about one hour.

Tickets for the tour are priced at $20 and are now on sale to the public. Organizers cautioned that the event is expected to sell out quickly.

The tour is sponsored by Ernie Hughes and First Financial Strategies.

The Wilcox House is located at 676 Penniman Ave. in downtown Plymouth. Tickets are available at Plymouth Historical Museum, 155 S. Main St., Plymouth, MI 48170.

For more information, call (734) 455-8940 or email secretary@plymouthhistory.org

Spinning for safety

April is Child Abuse Awareness Month, and the Canton Police Department worked with Kids-TALK Children's Advocacy Center last week to plant symbolic pinwheels on the grounds at township hall and the police station. Each pinwheel planted is a reminder that every child deserves a safe and carefree childhood, organizers said. The display is open to the public and signs near the pinwheels can be scanned for more information. Police said anyone affected by abuse who needs help should contact the Canton Police Department where numerous resources to provide help are available.

Village Arts Factory to host Art in Bloom market this Saturday

Art in Bloom, an annual spring artisan market presented by the Village Arts Factory and The Village Grocery, is set to take place from 10 a.m. until 5 p.m. this Saturday, April 26, as well as outside on the grounds of the arts facility, located at 50755 Cherry Hill Road in Canton Township.

The special event, supported by Blink Eye Care, Jacob Matthew Jewelers, Merrill Mueting Lyczak Group, and The Village Doctor at Cherry Hill, will showcase resident studio artists of the Village Arts Factory, as well as other local food and artisan vendors selling an array of fine arts, crafts, handmade gifts, jewelry, pottery, ceramics, apparel, accessories, and home goods. In addition, the annual Cherry Hill Potters Guild Spring Pottery Sale will also take place during Art in Bloom from 10 a.m. – 5 p.m.

"We are excited to connect the community with artisans and makers who are exceptional in their creative fields during our special market in Cherry Hill Village that celebrates the return of spring," stated Kevin Ryan, community program director. "The entire family will be able to enjoy this special event that is jam-packed with so much more than a unique shopping experience."

Additional highlights include live music, children's activities, face painting and more. In addition, refreshments and coffee will also be available for purchase from onsite food and coffee trucks. Guests can avoid the stress of finding parking by taking advantage of the shuttle that will run continuously to and from Workman Elementary School, located at 250 N. Denton Road, to the Village Arts Factory.

The Village Arts Factory is a multi-purpose studio space, where artists, designers, teachers, and community leaders can gather to collaborate, create, and display their works.

For additional information about the Village Arts Factory's 'Art in Bloom' event, visit www.cantonmi.gov/678 or call 734/394-5460.

THE EAGLE

To Subscibe to The Eagle, visit www.associatednewspapers.net

PUBLIC AUCTION

J & M TOWING
8964 INKSTER RD
ROMULUS MI 48174 • 734-946-4101

THE FOLLWOWING VEHICLES HAVE BEEN DEEMED ABANDONED AND WILL BE SOLD AT PUBLIC AUCTION AT **J&M TOWING ON MAY 7 TH, 2025**

THERE ARE 21 VEHICLES IN TOTAL
1 OF WHICH IS A DETROIT PRIVATE PROPERTY IMPOUND THAT WILL BE SOLD AT **11AM**
THE REMAINING 20 WILL BE SOLD AT **12 PM**

2007 FORD 2FMDK36C47BB22394
2016 CHEVROLET 1G1PE5SB0G7176259
2010 DODGE 2D4RN5D17AR445189
2008 JEEP 1J8GN28K68W221086
2010 LINCOLN 1LNHL9FT6AG615849
2010 CHRYSLER 2C3CA5CV3AH133982
2011 FORD 1FMCU9EG3BKC44420
2008 PONTIAC 1G2ZG57B984188002
2003 BUICK 2G4WS52J431276645
2009 CHEVROLET 2G1WT57K591179863
2007 HONDA 5FNRL38497B065772
2006 CHRYSLER 2C3KA53G56H432748
2014 BMW WBA5A5C52ED506191
2013 CHRSYLER 2C3CCACG9CH129829
2018 HYUNDAI 5NPD84LF2JH356679
2009 FORD 3FAHP08Z39R149216
2002 GMC 1GKET16SX26130948
2016 JEEP 1C4NJRBB9GD653354
2013 CHEVROLET 1GNKRFED3DJ105393
2008 LANDROVER SALFR24N88H101858
2006 STERLING 2FZMAZCV26AV54005

Address the structure & function of your pain!

WITH PROPER EDUCATION AND TREATMENT,
YOU BECOME EMPOWERED TO TAKE CONTROL
OF YOUR CONDITION AND AVOID
THE FEAR OF THE PAIN PROCESS.

Stop living with pain and call today!

DR. OTTO GEISEMAN IV
-DOCTOR OF CHIROPRACTIC-
-CERTIFIED STRENGTH AND CONDITIONING SPECIALIST-

STRUCTURE & Function CHIROPRACTIC • REHAB

595 FOREST SUITE-7B
PLYMOUTH MI, 48170
(734) 335-3635
S.FCHIRO.REHAB@GMAIL.COM
WWW.S-FCHIRO.COM

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF CANTON
INVITATION TO BID

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Charter Township of Canton, 1150 Canton Center S, Canton, Michigan will accept sealed bids at the Office of the Clerk up to 3:00 p.m. Thursday, May 8, 2025, for the following:

CDBG HOUSING REHABILITATION MAY 2025

Bids may be downloaded on the MITN Purchasing Group website at https://www.bidnetdirect.com/mitn/cantontownship or you may contact Mike Sheppard at: mike.sheppard@canton-mi.org. All proposals must be submitted in a sealed envelope clearly marked with the proposal name, company name, address and telephone number and date and time of proposal opening. The Township reserves the right to accept or reject any or all proposals. The Township does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age or disability in employment or the provision of services.

MICHAEL SIEGRIST, CLERK

Publish 4/24/2025